THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 18, NO. 5 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1998

DNR Reports . . .
by Glenn Therres

Endangered species protection is afforded to those plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the national level and by DNR at our state level. The intent of the federal act is primarily to prevent extinction of the listed species, while the intent of most state endangered species acts, including Maryland's, is to prevent extirpation of the species from the political entity called the state. This is an important distinction.

State endangered species acts can, in theory, serve as mechanisms to keep species of concern from declining to the level at which they warrant federal listing. This happens when a given species is listed by several states and appropriate protection and recovery efforts are undertaken by the states which leads to population stability or recovery for the given species. In order for this to succeed, states must have effective laws, the states must work cooperatively and adequate funding must be available to implement the necessary conservation actions.

States working cooperatively together is becoming more and more common. Efforts such as Partners in Flight is a good example. The natural heritage programs work cooperatively through The Nature Conservancy and the Association for Biodiversity Information. In the northeastern U.S. the Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee serves the purpose of coordinating such activities for state fish and wildlife agencies. Several special interstate working groups have been established to address a given species, such as timber rattlesnakes or eastern woodrats. Progress is being made.

Adequate funding is a different story. Funding for state nongame and endangered species efforts are primarily funded by state generated dollars, with very little federal monies available. Some states have enough money to get by with, others are struggling. Few states have "adequate" funding for nongame and endangered species conservation. For game species, there is federal funds available to the states to the tune of over $500,000,000 annually. This money is provided through a federal excise tax on guns and ammunition. However, no similar funds are available for nongame or state endangered species, except a small portion of the Pittman-Robertson Funds (as the federal excise funds are called) are used by some states for nongame birds and mammals. Teaming With Wildlife is one effort aimed at addressing this deficiency. Recently, a second possible federal funding source has come to the

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The Cavity Nesting Committee Needs Your Help
by Arlene Ripley

Did you know that MOS had a Cavity Nesting Committee? I'll bet you didn't! The Committee was formed back in the late 1970's when Larry Zeleny of bluebird fame was the President of the organization to address conservation issues relating to the many species of cavity-nesting birds in Maryland. For years the Committee was chaired by Chuck Dupree. When he died a few years back we began to look at the committee, wondering what it had actually been up to over the past decade or so. The purpose of this note is to find out!

In an effort to determine the future of the Cavity Nesting Committee, we are strongly interested in hearing about cavity nesting conservation projects that may be underway around the state—bluebird trails, owl nest box programs, whatever—if you are involved in such a program and if you think your program could be helped by communicating with other like programs in Maryland, let us know who you are and what you've been up to!. Besides the more well-known cavity nesters such as Eastern Bluebirds and Purple Martins, we are concerned with all of the other cavity-nesting species such as Barn Owls, Wood Ducks, Prothonotary Warblers, etc. Right now there's no place to find out what work is in progress or what past projects have carried out, either successfully or otherwise. We could possibly serve to compile and disseminate this information. Please let us know your wishes as to the direction this Committee should take. Do we need funding for more cavity nesting programs? Do we need to educate our members better about the plight of cavity nesters in the State? Or should we just let this Committee sink quietly into the past?

Get in touch with MOS President Norm Saunders and let him know what you think. You can reach Norm by e-mail at osprey@ari.net, or by phone at 301-989-9035 (evenings until 9 p.m.) or at 202-606-5701 (days, during the week).

Chapter Chatter
by Martha Waugh

Caroline Chapter Members Find Life Birds — Danny Poet and L.T. Short of the Caroline Chapter drove to Arizona and enjoyed some great birding. Of course, only four days of their two-week trip were actually in Arizona. They birded around the Tucson area, including Madeira Canyon and the Desert Sonora Museum. To their surprise, it actually rained one day in the desert. Danny gained 20 life birds, including Gila Woodpecker, Lesser Goldfinch, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Mexican Jay, and Yellow-eyed Junco. The travelers even managed to spot a Golden Eagle at 60 mph. In June, Danny found another lifer closer to home, the Mississippi Kite at Huntley Meadows, Virginia, near Alexandria.

Washingtonian Magazine Features Birds and Birders — Run, don't walk to your nearest library to check out the June 1998 issue of the Washingtonian magazine for the article,

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For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the January/February 1999 issue are:
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All Other Submissions:
December 1, 1998

MOS Vacancies—We Need You

by Norm Saunders

As I took over the reigns from Bob Rineer this past summer, the MOS Board suffered a rash of retirements, all excellent folks whom I shall miss greatly. Many of those vacancies (Education Chair, Long-range Planning Chair, EFM Coordinator, Scholarships Chair) have already been filled, again, by a bunch of excellent folks that I look forward to working with in the coming years. Two troubling vacancies still remain though.

The first is the position of **Executive Secretary**. This position, filled so ably by Will Tress over the past six years, is one that's easy to forget about when it is filled with someone as competent as Will. But as soon as Will notified me of his intent to retire, I began to realize, almost on a weekly basis, just how important this position really is to a smooth-running MOS Board. It is so important, in fact, that about ten years ago the Board of Directors decided to make this a paid position—a stipend of $2,400 is paid to the incumbent each year (along with expenses, of course). So, what does this person have to do? Here are Will Tress's words on that subject:

> "As you know, the ES gets a stipend of $200 per month. The job requires a periodic (at least weekly) trip to Cylburn to collect the mail. Also, the voicemail must be checked more or less daily; currently the call-in number is a local (Baltimore) number, but this probably can be changed.
>
> "Access to e-mail and the internet are probably mandatory: e-mail to communicate with the officers and members, internet to research questions and find contact information. Storage space is also important: I have four file drawers (in two two-drawer cabinets) with old files. Also about twenty (copier paper size) boxes with stationery, Yellowbooks, etc. that need reasonably good storage conditions. (No wet basements).
>
> "Job duties include ordering stationery and supplies, maintaining the Board list, copying and distributing minutes and other Board documents, sending out renewal notices to at-large members, and selling checklists and Yellowbooks (both at meetings and by mail). Mail and voicemail duties as indicated above.
>
> "I have a kind of manual with a checklist of duties and useful information that will go to the next ES. Also, I have all my old Board lists and meeting announcements; these are in WP5, but can be made ASCII for the next person. If it helps in recruiting, I will be glad to back up the new person with mail pick-up and/or voicemail checking from time to time—provided that I am not out of town myself."

As you can see—a big job in need of a dedicated person. Are you that person? Even if you may have some reservations, but generally like the sound of it, call me and let's discuss it.

The second position is that of **May Count Coordinator**, filled for many, many years by Jim Stasz and then, as his scope broadened, by Leanne Pemburn. Leanne has done a great job with the count, dealing with often recalcitrant County-level contacts and putting together the good reports we've grown used to in **MD Birdlife** over the years. Now she's tired, and although she has expressed a willingness to complete her work with the 1998 May Count, she will no longer be available for future count coordination work.

While this may not be the smartest move on my part, I want to take this opportunity to consider broadening the responsibilities of the position, making it a full-fledged Committee called Recurring Counts. More and more often now, Counties are getting involved in Fall and mid-Winter counts. No one has stepped forward yet to begin pulling together the information on these other counts, but they are at least as deserving as the May Count for this kind of attention, compilation, and publication.

The incumbent needs to make sure information on the various counts is published in ***MD Yellowthroat***: the date or dates of the counts, the names of County compilers, official checklists for each count (to ensure consistent reporting of details on uncommon species seen), gathering of the data from the County compilers, and compilation for publication in **MD Birdlife**. The job requires computer savvy and an eye for judging when a rare sighting is in need of further documentation.

Do either of these jobs sound interesting to you? Both are important, both will be missed sorely if they're not filled, and both are critical to the operation of MOS. These are wonderful opportunities for members to get involved in the operation of your organization at the highest levels. Please don't turn your backs on these vacancies. Call me, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035 (evenings until 9 p.m.) or at 202-606-5701 (days, during the week) to discuss either of these positions. Thank you!

DNR Reports . . .

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forefront. It is a proposal to redistribute 10% of the existing Outer Continental Shelf oil drilling fees to state nongame efforts. Half of our funds for nongame and endangered species efforts come from donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund. Donations are made by citizens on their state income tax form. The line is changing this year to Line 40.

The strength of Maryland's endangered species law is that it requires other state agencies to incorporate endangered species protection into their programs, including permitting processes. Our law per se is not very strong at protecting habitat, nor are most state endangered species laws. Therefore, most of our habitat protection comes in the form of other state actions, such as wetland permits or the Critical Area Program. Over the years we have become masters at utilizing these mechanisms to protect endangered species habitats. However, protection does not automatically equal stopping the project in its entirety or perhaps at all. Our job is to insure that the proposed activity does not adversely impact the listed species.

We get calls nearly every day from concerned citizens trying to stop some development project or another because endangered species might be affected. In some cases, the caller has no knowledge of endangered species and is just hoping there might be something there to stop the development from occurring in their neighborhood. Others call to report seeing a bald eagle or some other endangered species and expect the project to be stopped. We review the evidence and take appropriate actions when warranted. Most of the time we are already aware of the proposed development, through an environmental review process, and are working on resolving potential conflicts.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is involved in similar types of reviews and we collaborate when needed for federally listed species. The federal Endangered Species Act allows for the development of Habitat Conservation Plans, which is a permitting mechanism to allow some incidental take of habitat while insuring the protection of other habitat and the endangered population. Maryland's act does not allow such in its current form. We are considering introducing changes to our law to allow for this flexibility in endangered species habitat protection. The population in question is not jeopardized in this process, but we would have more conservation alternatives available to resolve conflicts. And conflict resolution is the key to success for endangered species efforts.

Chapter Chatter

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"The Birds of Washington," by Larry Van Dyne. It is an excellent summary of birds and birding in the Washington , Virginia, and Maryland area, filled with great stories of birding incidents and birders, including Presidents Thomas Jefferson, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, and Jimmy Carter. The nine-page article is supplemented with a beautiful pull-out poster featuring Washington birds on one side and information panels on the other covering common questions about birds, backyard bird feeding, places to see birds, and resources (including an MOS listing), written by Lorna Campbell. MOS members quoted or mentioned in the article include Chandler Robbins, Lola Oberman, Harvey Mudd, John Bjerke, Paul Baicich, and the late Lawrence Zeleny. Peter Kaestner, a foreign-service officer now on duty in Namibia, is identified as a birder who has seen 7,135 of the world's 9,500 bird species. Peter is the brother of Hank Kaestner, an MOSer highlighted below for his recent trip to China. Books by Chan Robbins and Claudia Wilds are listed as resources for enjoying birds. Other birders mentioned are Sam Droege, Bill McShea, Aelred Geis, Gene Morton, Charles Atherton, Janice Peacock, George Petridis, Roxie Laybourne, and Carla Dove.

Baltimore Member Finds Hawks in the Stew — Hank Kaestner, the peripatetic McCormick spice man, spent 10 days in southern China near Vietnam, an area he calls "a birdwatchers' nightmare." Hank visited Guanxi Province and Hainan Island in the Gulf of Tonkin. He adds that "all birds are killed for the pot." He saw more species in restaurants than in the wild. No good habitat is left because of environmental problems. There is no more forest to absorb the heavy rains. The Mekong River is filled with silt. There were literally no roadside birds at all. Hawks, starlings, and magpies are sought after for food. Hank described a dinner with his contacts that began with fried scorpions and progressed to hawk and turtle stew. He asked how they knew it was hawk and his host pulled out the head, a large one with a hawk-like hooked bill. The dark turkey-like meat was tasty. Hank is an adventurous gourmet as well as an ardent birdwatcher and he also tried scrambled eggs with ants one morning. He did see swallows and swifts and on Hainan Island he found the recently described Hainan Warbler in a protected national park, one of only five life birds for Hank on this trip. Baltimore, Howard, and Montgomery Chapters Encourage E-mail The Baltimore Bird Club's next Membership Directory may include E-mail addresses. This year's membership registration card requests your E-mail address if you would like it included on future membership lists. Members may also opt not to appear at all on the membership list. Montgomery already has a directory of E-mail addresses of members. Howard encourages members who want to be on the rare bird alert list to supply an E-mail address.

Washington County Names New President — As reported in the May/June issue, Gay Gilbert, Washington County's 1998/1999 president moved back home to Kerrville, Texas. Chapter members say they will miss Gay but they feel they have gained a wonderful birding area to visit. David Weesner was elected in the September meeting as the new president. David was also chapter president in the 1996-97 year.

Anne Arundel Opens The Chapter Year with an Annual Potluck — Mary O'Leary of Davidsonville hosted Anne Arundel Chapter's annual fall potluck picnic. Birding, volleyball, and horseshoe pitching contributed to the fun of visiting and sharing summer birding stories. Unfortunately the birds didn't cooperate with the reunion and very few appeared, but the birders agreed they had a lovely evening anyway.

Sinai Hospital Employees Experience "The Bird" — Gail Frantz, author of the popular "Back Yard Birding" column in the Baltimore Bird Club's newsletter, "Chip Notes," reports the following story: "During July, while 'vacationing' for 24 hours at Sinai Hospital, one of the physical therapists told me about a Robin sized gray bird with white stripes on his wings. She said he had been attacking and terrorizing everyone on their way to and from the hospital cafeteria. She wondered what kind of bird he was 'cause no one knew. My room overlooked the sidewalk that led into the cafeteria but, during my brief visit, I was never able to observe what was undoubtedly a Mocker in action." You'll be relieved to know that Gail is recovering, but is not yet up to her usual warp speed.

Caroline Chapter Reelects Officers — The Caroline Chapter returned its full slate of officers for the 1998-99 year: Danny Poet, president; Bill Scudder, vice-president; Debby Bennett, treasurer; and Chris Lawrence, secretary.

Frederick Chapter President Spots a Wonderful Bird — Wilber Hershberger, president of the Frederick Chapter, made the following report: "Sunday (September) the 13th, I and several other very lucky birders participated in Brian Patterson's pelagic trip from Virginia Beach. After five hours of due east travel we started to find a few pelagics. After another two hours of meandering along a 'grass line' we encountered a small immature gull resting on the water. The Captain once again showed his skill in getting the boat close to the birds without

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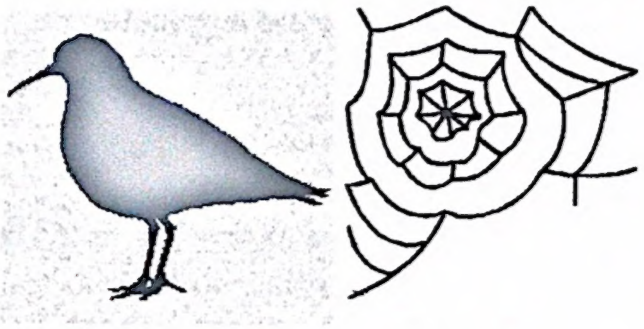
Birds on the Web



The Great Backyard Bird Count
by Allison Wells

The 2nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (cosponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon) will take place February 19-22, 1999. For the count, every birder in North America (NA) is being asked to count the birds you see at your feeders, local parks, and other areas, and to enter your reports at the BirdSource website <http://birdsource.cornell.edu>. The count is a way to add to a vast database (that includes info from the NA Winter Finch Survey, Warbler Watch, Christmas Bird Counts, Project FeederWatch, etc.) that will help ensure common birds remain common and to help species whose numbers are already in decline.

The technology should be in place this year to allow anyone to query the database with specific questions about which species were reported where, down to zip code. Again, there'll be species accounts, bird images and sounds, an extensive Map Room for within- and between-project abundance and distribution comparisons, and other info.

As always, there's no sign up or fee, you just go to the website and enter your data. Last year, we received more than 14,000 reports during a three-day period. This year, we're hoping for even more.

Thanks!

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The 1998 Texas Classic, Part I
by Marshall Iliff

ed. note: this material has been culled from a series of messages that Marshall posted on MDOsprey, the Maryland Birding Listserv, and is reproduced here with his permission. Our congratulations go out to a Maryland birder who made good! Way to go, Marsh!

In case any of you aren't familiar with the event, the Texas Birding Classic, is a week-long event sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife in cooperation with a number of other state agencies, and is something akin to New Jersey's World Series of Birding. Teams compete on one, two, or all three competition days (24 hour Big Days) which are separated by a day to rest and recuperate (or drive and scout, as in our case). This year the first day (Apr. 27) was in the Lower Valley (San Ygnacio to the coast, north to Kingsville), the second day (Apr. 29) was on the mid-Coast (roughly Kingsville to Freeport, and up to 150 miles inland), while the on last day (May 1) birders were limited to the coastal area from Freeport to the Louisiana border, and including Houston and sites inland up to about 150 miles. The Grand Prize is awarded to the team which has the highest cumulative list for those three competition days. Best of all, like the World Series, it raises tens of thousands of dollars for conservation and the Grand Prize winners have the honor of allocating $50,000 to the conservation project of their choice.

Strategy for the Classic was unusual, since the single day lists are unimportant and all that matters is the cumulative total. Thus, the routes necessarily change if essential species are found earlier than expected and bonus time (something unheard of on a typical Big Day) may rear its rarely-encountered head. I arrived down a week early and scouted the Upper Coast region, which hosts a number of species (mostly eastern breeders like Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, etc.) which cannot be found elsewhere. I scouted every day from dawn to dusk, and spent most of the nights logged onto e-mail strategizing with teammates and bugging local Texans for tips on whatever species had eluded me. The scouting week was phenomenal, with good migrant flights at High Island and nearby on most days, and spectacular concentrations of roosting gulls, terns, shorebirds, etc. on Bolivar Flats. I truly fell in love with Bolivar Flats. On a high tide at dusk, the sheer volume and diversity of birds there is mind-boggling.

The scouting effort was entirely paid for by our sponsor, *Wild Bird* magazine (our team name was the Wildbirders), which was all the nicer. Among many highlights during that scouting week were: 9 species of gulls at Bolivar Flats and nearby, including Iceland, Glaucous, Lesser-black-backed and Thayer's — all Texas Review species; 3 loon species (Common, Red-throated, and Pacific) at once; a minor fallout at Sabine Woods with 25+ warbler species, including 100+ Hooded Warblers, along with many other colorful migrants such as Scarlet Tanagers and Baltimore Orioles; up to 20 Swainson's Warblers in a morning in the Big Thicket; getting a tip on Red-cockaded Woodpecker and observing 6 birds around their nest holes for an hour one morning, while other target species Wood Duck, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman's Sparrow, Pine Warbler, American Kestrel and Pileated Woodpecker sound-off around me.

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Identification Guide to North American Birds: Part 1
by Peter Pyle

reviewed by David W. Holmes

The community of bird banders was all but jumping up and down as rumors and news of this book increased in intensity. Its release caused celebrations!! The standard field birder probably said, "Huh? It has no color pictures. Why should **I** want it?". That's a good question. And this review attempts to suggest answers.

The guide is a gloriously detailed account of how to separate species, age, and sex for all birds which occur regularly north of the U.S./Mexican border from doves through the end of the AOU checklist. This is the first time such material has been gathered in one place for the "near-Passerines" – all those families which appear between alcids and flycatchers in that list. It is a second edition of this information for Passerines; flycatchers through the end of the checklist. The author freely acknowledges that much of the book is an invitation to further study. He also states on the title page that this is "a compendium of information on identifying, ageing, and sexing . . . *in the hand*" (italics mine). With this in mind, let's find out what the book can tell us.

In the "Acknowledgements", the breadth of the "helpers' list" is impressive and the list includes a very respectable number of Maryland bird people.

The "Introduction" comprises 40 pages of definitions, explanations of how the author (and collaborators) have done measurements, etc. and techniques for using the book and its information most efficiently. This section includes a serious discussion of molt and how much it can tell us about the age of a bird.

Where appropriate, the author gives information that works throughout a genus, e.g. molt patterns or tail spot shapes, before starting the individual species accounts within that genus.

A typical species account starts with the 4 letter species code (COYE) which, along with the AOU number (681.0), is submitted on every single record we turn into the Bird Banding Lab. So, if you've heard people talking about "MODO's " or "BOBO's" on field trips, this is the source. (These codes are a wonderful convenience. I use them constantly in my written field lists.) The next line gives acceptable band sizes for the species in order of preference. Then, the author tells us how to make sure we are dealing with a Common Yellowthroat and not a similar species. For most species this section is very short; for standard birders, the field guides do it better (remember, this book has no color pictures and no drawings of whole birds). For difficult species or groups such as Empidonax flycatchers or female hummingbirds, the book presents charts of measurements and exceedingly detailed plumage descriptions. So, when these are combined with the genus level characters, very few birds should leave your hand incognito.

The species account goes on to cover geographic variations and subspecies with sources, ranges, and descriptions of plumage and measurements. Some of this has direct application to field observations. Then on to molt, a quick line about timing of growth of the strengthening second layer of skull which helps in determining the age of a bird in hand, and more real "meat"; the careful description of each variation in plumage caused by age, sex, or season. He also tells us which of those variations we are not yet able to label specifically. The book includes line and drawn diagrams to illustrate specific

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Red-Tails in Love, A Wildlife Drama in Central Park
by Marie Winn

reviewed by Joy Wheeler

There is not one ***Maryland Yellowthroat*** reader among us who is not aware of the ability of birds to help us transcend that gap between our everyday existence and the world of wildlife, to move us beyond our human-centered world. So, do we need to read this book? Yes, we do! I confess that its title could have kept me from reading it since I'm suspicious of any attempt to attribute human emotions to birds. But the first page I read dispelled my fear that **Red-Tails in Love** was going to be more anthropomorphic than I felt comfortable with. Right inside the book, near the title page, Winn defends her use or non-use of upper case letters in bird names, despite AOU protocols. It made sense tome to use lower case letters when she spoke of the red-tailed hawk main characters and all the rest of the birds in New York City's Central Park. Think of how the pages would have been cluttered with large-sized names of birds on the fairly small-sized pages of this book, its 305 pages notwithstanding. You may want to buy the book to keep on your shelf as a reference for planning your next trip to New York City...it's worth it!

Marie Winn keeps her story moving, supporting her own reports of red-tail hawk behavior with the authority of respected scientists, bird banders, seasoned Central Park birdwatchers, some famous and some not so famous. While she can, admittedly, only guess at the emotions of the birds involved, her story has stirred the emotions of those blasé New Yorkers whether or not they have read of it in her Wall Street Journal outdoors column.

It was in 1995, during a visit to the American Museum of Natural History that I first heard of the red-tailed hawks' attempt at nesting on a tall nearby building. My trip included late-April birding in Central Park, where warblers, towhees, and indigo buntings, to name but a few, delighted us all. While we were watching there, a red-tailed hawk rose above the tree line of the park and kept on climbing and climbing, to a perch high among the tall surrounding buildings. Our guide knew the story and introduced us only sketchily since it was still playing itself out. What the status of the story is now I don't know, but we all may be updated soon with the movie version of Winn's book. So, before you get any further behind in the story, read the book then take your binoculars along on your next theater trip to the City and see

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Chapter Chatter

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causing them to fly prematurely. Brian had announced the ID of the bird while we were still 100 yards away. As we closed in on the bird, Brian thought it would never fly. We were all looking at an immature Sabine's gull that was just 40 feet from the port side of the boat. Camera shutters were flying. Finally, the bird took flight as I shaped the last shot on the roll in my camera. What an incredible way to add a really rare lifer to one's list."

Veteran Pelagic Trip Captain Dies — Linwood Martens, owner and captain of the "Judith M," was killed in an airplane crash near Ocean City this summer. Many MOS members who took pelagic trips with Gene Scarpulla and Brian Patterson will recall Captain Martens as a kind and considerate man. He was an experienced charter fishing captain who had developed an interest in seabirds over the years. The "Judith M" was the boat that never left the Bahia Marina during the last MOS convention at Ocean City because of bad weather. Captain Martens' son-in-law, C.A. (Chuck) Meredith, is now the skipper of the "Judith M."

Tales from the Baltimore Fall Bird Count — In tallying up embarrassing birding moments, Elliot Kirschbaum relates that, during the Baltimore Chapter's fall bird count on September 19, he "went to an alley in back of an apartment building at 7:00 p.m. to count Chimney Swifts as they entered the apartment building chimney to roost for the night. The birds started funneling at 7:12. At 7:25 a police car pulled up at the entrance to the alley ('Someone reported a man with binoculars in the alley. Not that there is any law against it.'). At 7:35 the Swifts were all inside the chimney and my presence would have been (even) harder to explain. By the way does anyone know how to get an accurate count of funneling swifts when you have to explain what is going on to curious neighbors, a group of party people who are sure they are bats, and a cop?"

How I Spent My Summer "Vacation" — Mary Paul, a Baltimore Chapter member, spent her summer working on the beach of Monomoy NWR on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, studying gull-plover interactions. Birders may remember that in 1996 Massachusetts officials tried to eliminate gulls on Monomoy Island by poisoning them. The gulls were seen as competitors for breeding areas and potential predators of Piping Plovers (threatened on the East Coast), Roseate Tern (Federally endangered), Common and Least Tern (State endangered). The island, unoccupied by humans, boasts the largest nesting colony of gulls in the North Atlantic. These thousands and thousands of gulls are mainly Great Black Backed and Herring Gulls, with a few Laughing Gulls (although no Laughing Gulls nested in 1998). There are about 2500 terns, including Common, Least, and Roseate, and about 250 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons. The overall State plan was to divide the island into thirds. On one third, they would eliminate gulls; on one third they would puncture eggs so that none would hatch; and on one third they would do nothing. The third in which nesting gulls were eliminated proved to be dangerous for other birds because juvenile birds, barred from the nesting areas by territorial adults, "loafed " in the area quite a bit and they were often seen associated with the clammers looking for scraps or turned up sediment. The campaign to eliminate gulls by poisoning became a serious public relations problem when the poisoned birds flew to the nearby tourist destination, Chatham, to die. In response to the public outcry, the Secretary of the Interior asked the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to begin a three-year study of plover and tern predators. Enter Mary Paul, an employee of USGS at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Mary camped out on Monomoy and monitored about 14 pairs of nesting Piping Plovers. She found that the plovers had more than one survival problem. She and the birds were deluged with the "worst weather in 25 years." It was cold, windy, and foggy with severe downpours just when chicks were hatching. She even endured a nor'easter from May 9 to 12 where the winds were 30-40mph. Coyotes, a big problem in this part of Massachusetts, waded and swam to the island and may have contributed to the problems of nesting birds. Mary outlasted two sleeping tents, walked at least five miles a day, and overcame the weather. She was disappointed that only 2 pairs of "her" plovers fledged two chicks each. Plovers lay four eggs so this was not a good percentage. USGS has contracted the remaining two years of the project to the University of Virginia. Meanwhile, Mary and her husband are monitoring their own nest and are expecting to produce a young birdwatcher in early October.

MOS Research Grants

By Dave Brinker

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the availability of research grants for ornithological research to be conducted in the state of Maryland. Grants are generally limited to amounts less than $2,000. If the research is to be done at or near one of the MOS sanctuaries, the society may be able to provide accommodations at a nominal cost. Proposals are reviewed twice annually with deadlines of 1 December and 1 June with award notification in approximately eight weeks. For application guidelines and further information write: David F. Brinker, MOS Research Committee, 115 North Beechwood Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228.

Call For Papers—MOS Annual Conference

by Dave Brinker

The MOS Research Committee sponsors oral presentations at our annual conferences. The next conference is scheduled for 14-16 May 1999 at the Solomon's Island Holiday Inn Conference Center in Calvert County. If you would like to share the results of any research on the natural history of Maryland birdlife, please contact Dave Brinker by e-mail at dbrinker@bellatlantic.net, or by phone at (410) 744-3246, or by 15 April 1999, send an abstract to: David F. Brinker, MOS Research Committee, 1200 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228.

Maryland Christmas Counts and Compilers, 1998-99

Please note that one of our Maryland Christmas Counts, Catoctin Mountain, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. If you can, join in on this count and make the half-century mark truly memorable!

Saturday, December 19

Allegany County — Gwen Brewer (Frostburg), 301-689-1150.
Denton — Steve Westre (Denton), 410-479-0338.
Elkton — Joel Citron (Wilmington, DE), 302-475-8773.
Oakland — Connie Skipper (Oakland), 301-387-5227.
Triadelphia Reservoir – Rick Sussman (Ashton), 301-774-1185.
Washington, DC — John Bjerke, compiler. New participants call the Audubon Naturalist Society (Chevy Chase), 301-652-9188.

Sunday, December 20

Catoctin Mountain — Mike Welch (Frederick), 301-874-5828. **(50th Anniversary!!!)**
Jug Bay — Sam Droege (Hyattsville), 410-798-6759 (H) & 301-497-5840 (O).
Lower Kent County — Paul Toulson (Chestertown), 410-778-4123.
Port Tobacco — George Wilmot (Bryans Road), 301-375-8552.
St. Michaels – Frank Lawlor (Royal Oak), 410-745-6039 or Bill Novak (Easton), 410-822-2432.
Salisbury — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.
Seneca — Steve Pretl (Potomac), 301-251-8648.

Sunday, December 27

Bowie — Fred Fallon (Bowie), 301-249-1518.
Point Lookout – Bob Boxwell (Dameron), 301-872-5998.

Tuesday, December 29

Rock Run — Dave & Macrena Seitz (Bel Air), 410-838-2150

Saturday, January 2

Washington County — David Weesner (Boonsboro), 301-432-7718.
Baltimore Harbor — Peter Webb (Baltimore), 410-486-1217.

Sunday, January 3

Annapolis/Gibson Island—Sue Ricciardi (Arnold), 410-647-9513 or Hal Wierenga & Lynn Davidson (Arnold), 410-647-7439.
Fort Belvoir—Carol Ghebelian, Maryland Coordinator (Indian Head), 301-753-6754.
Patuxent River – Doug Lister, 301-994-2582 (H) or 301-342-3670 (O).
Sugarloaf Mountain — Gary Nelson (Bethesda), 301-897-8916, or Rob Gibbs (Gaithersburg), 301-253-6903.

N.B.: The dates for the following three counts were still unsettled as we went to press. Please watch for the latest Maryland Christmas Count schedule changes on the MOS State Website: www.mdbirds.org
Ocean City — Chan Robbins (Laurel), 301-725-1176.
Crisfield — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.
Southern Dorchester County (Blackwater) — Chan Robbins (Laurel), 301-725-1176.

1999 MOS Scholarship Program

by Jean Fry

The Maryland Ornithological Society is now accepting applications from Maryland teachers and youth leaders for seven scholarships to attend summer ecology workshops which the National Audubon Society holds at its camps in Maine, Connecticut, and Wyoming. Each grant covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction in ecology, conservation, and natural history.

The MOS is also accepting applications from Maryland teachers and youth leaders for one or two scholarship for a week of study in ornithology at the Audubon summer workshop in Maine.

The MOS requires that its scholarship recipients work with young people. This includes teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, students, and others who intend to make nature education a part of their careers. Applicants need not be members of MOS, but must be endorsed by a chapter or a member of MOS. Each candidate must submit the following:

A written statement in the form of a letter showing how the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our wild heritage and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment.

Two letters of recommendation from individuals who know of the candidate's interests and activities. (One must be from an MOS member or chapter.)

A current resume.

Applicants must be eighteen or older.

The following people are helping the Scholarship Committee to recruit candidates in their respective areas: Baltimore—Phyllis Gerber; Howard—Eileen Clegg; Talbot—Janet Cree; Wicomico—Patsy Decker.

Applications for the 1999 season are due by January 30, 1999 to Jean Fry, Chairperson of the MOS Scholarship Committee, 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132. We urge all MOS members to see that this information is disseminated as widely as possible to all educators and youth leaders in the State. We need a broad base of applicants to ensure wide participation and fairness in the selection process.

The 1999 Conference Pin Design Contest

by John Malcolm

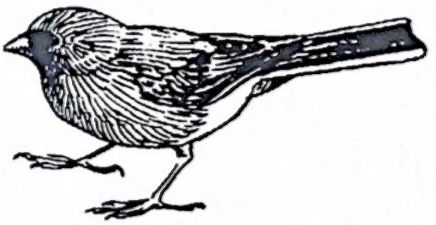
The Conference Committee invites you to enter the 1999 Pin Design Contest. The rules are:

- The bird featured must be appropriate for the conference site, Solomons Island, in Calvert County (i.e., no Pine Grosbeak).
- The design shall include the phrases "MOS" and "1999"
- Submissions shall be rendered in color.
- Artists may not use others' work, or copyrighted material.
- Submissions shall not be framed or matted.
- The artist's name should not appear on the front of the entry.
- Artists may submit up to three designs for any one contest.
- Entrants must be members of MOS.
- The deadline for entries is December 31, 1998.
- Entries should be sent to: John Malcolm, 10205 Kindly Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20879-2902

GUIDELINES

- Designs should be clearly depicted, simple, uncluttered, and complete. The pin will be less than two inches; small details and complicated backgrounds don't reduce well. Bold, simple designs are best.
- The manufacturer has a limited color palette; artists should consider birds with "common" colors. (Note the color rendition of the "olive" back of the yellowthroat for 1991.)
- Avoid shading or small patches of color. The pins are cloisonné, and each color change is bordered by a brass line. (The background in the original design for 1994 was shaded from dark green to light green; the pin company could only produce one shade.)
- Submissions should be on sturdy, white, unlined paper or Bristol, in any medium, and at least five inches across (but not larger than 9 X 12 inches).
- The shape of the pin doesn't matter; the manufacturer can produce any shape we want.
- Artists need not depict the entire bird (note the 1988 shrike).
- The contest will be judged by an impartial jury of birders and artists. No entrant can be a judge.
- Judges consider artistic merit, suitability of the species, and the attractiveness of the resultant pin.
- The jury's decision is final.
- The winner may be asked to make minor changes in the design before it is sent to the manufacturer.
- The manufacturer may have to make minor changes to accommodate the manufacturing process (note the solid background in the 1994 pin).
- Artwork will be returned to the artists, except for the winning design.
- Artists should put the name of the species depicted, as well as their name, address, telephone number, and chapter affiliation, on a separate sheet of paper. They should put only their name on the back of the entry (written small, in one corner). All identification will be covered before judging.
- Color renditions of past contest winners can be seen at the MOS State Web Page: http://www.MDBirds.org

Call John Malcolm with any questions, at (301) 977-5788.



MOS Receives Memorial Bequest

by Joy Wheeler

The MOS has received from the estate of Frances Covington a $32,000 bequest in memory of her friend Etta Stem Wedge, both of whom were members of the Baltimore Bird Club. There are still a few of us who remember these women but none could provide enough information for even a short biography, but we did have one clue to follow up—both women had worked as Librarians at the Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL), here in Baltimore. On of our younger members, Julie Saylor Sandhaus, works at Pratt Central and she was able to extract some basic facts about these two women from the Library's Human Resources files.

Frances Covington was born in Austin, Texas, in 1918. She was educated in Utah and received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Utah and her Master's in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At the age of 23 she arrived in Baltimore to take a position with the EPFL, where she would work until her retirement in 1976. The last twenty-one years of her life were spent in North Carolina, but she continued her membership and interest in the Baltimore Bird Club for many years after leaving the State. Her influence on the club is still felt. In 1981 she made a gift of $1,000 to the Baltimore Bird Club in memory of her friend Etta Wedge, upon Etta's death.

Etta Stem Wedge (1908-1981) had also been employed by EPFL, from 1945 to 1956. Without any further biographical information about Ms. Wedge we can only assume that these two women became friendly in their profession and developed that friendship further in their birding activities. Etta had acted as our Program Chair for a few years, one of those being the 1971-72 season when she arranged for us to hear lectures by Mrs. Elmer Worthley (how formal we were then!), Chandler Robbins, and Haven Kolb, among others. There was a weekend at Irish Grove, a trip to Sandy Point to see Snow Buntings, and trips to Woodstock led by Mrs. Carl (Erana) Lubbert. Sound familiar? There was a lot more too, but we are all familiar with the breadth of our program, new and old activities blending well, thanks to past and present program chairs such as Peter Webb and Debbie Terry.

The trip where I remember meeting both Frances and Etta is not included in the 1971-72 program. I suppose it may have been the following year, a trip to Dorchester County's Elliott Island, most memorable for having Etta point out my first American Bittern, standing there in the tall marsh grasses, beak pointed skyward. Is it hard to imagine why I have remembered the two of them?

So, when you walk through Cylburn's woods and come upon the Etta Stem Wedge Bird Trail, remember how it got there. You will also need to know that it was through the perseverance of Barbara Larrabee and Marjorie Jones that Frances' $1,000 was used to open the trail and plant some bird-attracting shrubbery along its edges. We need to acknowledge our gratitude for the generous bequest from Frances Covington and the generous contribution of their time by Etta Wedge, Barbara Larrabee, Marjorie Jones, and Julie Sandhaus.

Ideas are also needed on how the bequest should be used. Should the money be added to existing endowments, for example? Should a new project or program be endowed? Should it be used for a special conservation project? Let your Board Representatives know!

American Bird Conservancy Update

by Dan Southworth

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC), dedicated to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats, continues to be involved in several important activities. The MOS joined the ABC as a voting member in 1995, and Mark Johnson and I serve as Delegates on the Policy Council.

ABC's *Cats Indoors!* campaign to promote and coordinate education and outreach programs relating to the problem of feral cat predation of wildlife is well underway. About 1,700 education kits have been distributed to activists, 518 chapters of the National Audubon Society, and other conservation organizations. The new brochure, *Keeping Cats Indoors Isn't Just for The Birds!*, is being distributed to the public at parks, nature centers, veterinarian offices and through bird clubs. MOS will be looking into distributing these brochures to its members as well.

In April 1998, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) advocated disturbing and attempting to move what may be the world's largest colony of nesting Caspian Terns, on Rice Island in the Columbia River estuary, due to the terns' consumption of hatchery-raised smolts of Federally listed populations of salmon. In conjunction with other conservation organizations, ABC requested that an adequate assessment be made to determine whether disturbing the colonies would increase the survival of the smolts since only a tiny faction of them survives long enough to breed. It was also pointed out that a compatibility determination, as required by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, had not been made. As a result of these efforts, the terns have been granted a temporary reprieve. Written comments have been submitted urging that the birds not be disturbed pending studies and compliance with all Federal laws. Modifying habitat, hazing, and changing hatchery practices need to be considered.

As previously reported, ABC has been successfully working with several conservation groups to stop the significant mortality of Swainson's Hawks in Argentina associated with the pesticide monocrotophos. Building on successes to date, ABC has launched an Advocacy Campaign on Pesticides and Birds to further advance strategies to protect birds from pesticides. ABC is also continuing efforts to stop the deliberate killing of wintering Dickcissels in Venezuela by some rice farmers, by helping farmers and conservationists work collaboratively to develop steps to resolve problems.

Conservationists, led by members of the ABC Policy Council, have succeeded in gaining significant reductions in the catch of the Delaware Bay population of Horseshoe Crabs. Not only is this crab threatened, but many species of shorebirds are dependent on the excess crab eggs while stopping in Delaware Bay during their spring migration to Arctic breeding grounds. New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware have all acted to greatly restrict the Horseshoe Crab take. Unfortunately, trawlers and dredgers have shifted their landings to Virginia where the reported catch has already tripled over 1997 levels, essentially nullifying the efforts of the other states. To date, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission has shown no interest in protecting the crab, only in protecting the users of the crab for bait. Efforts continue to attempt to persuade Virginia's Governor James Gilmore to fully cooperate with the other states.

ABC is helping with efforts to protect the San Clemente Island Loggerhead Shrike, reduce or eliminate the killing of seabirds on hooks in longline fisheries around the world, reduce the massive bird kills associated with communications towers, and is supporting and promoting a host of other North American and international bird conservation initiatives. ABC continues to monitor, study, and provide comment relative to the controversies associated with the lethal control of bird populations, and will continue to support the Important Bird Areas and Partners in Flight Programs, help with efforts to secure better protection for our National Wildlife Refuges, monitor activities related to the Endangered Species Act, and secure more dollars for various conservation efforts from Federal appropriations.

The American Bird Conservancy, with its goal to actively and efficiently coordinate the efforts of many conservation oriented groups into a unifying force, continues to be instrumental in many collaborative bird conservation efforts.

Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: NANJEMOY CREEK Environmental Center – Charles County
MEETING DATE: March 14, 1998
MEETING START: 10:05 AM
MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:50 AM

Chapters not represented: Allegany, Caroline, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Patuxent, Talbot, Wicomico

Corrections/Additions to Minutes:
Name spelling should be **Carol Jelich**. Norm wants copies of "Attached Lists," and Publicity wants name listed (Mike Callahan). So noted and remainder of minutes approved as written.

Additional Comments:
Thanks to Mike Callahan for sponsoring meeting and supplying refreshments.

Officer Reports:
President (Bob Rineer) – Any Reports should be submitted to either the Secretary or to Janet Millenson (in Chan Robbins absence).
Vice President (Norm Saunders) – See Norm's report for further details. Welcome to Ernie Willoughby as new VP of Southern MD Audubon Society who has accepted MOS's invitation to participate in the MOS 1999 Conference. Ernie is present to meet with Lou DeMouy and get a dialog together on field trips and other items for the conference.

BoD Meetings have been scheduled as follows:
1998 September 12, and December 5.
1999 March 13, June 12, September 11, and December 4.
2000 March 11, and June 10

(continued on next page)

June Board Meeting Minutes

(continued from previous page)

MOS supported Word Series of Birding by paying Registration fees and other costs. Revenues were around $2600.00 (pledges, donations and sales of hats, t-shirts) with expenses under $1000.00. MOS netted over $1600.00 (see attached Table of Revenues and Expenses for WSB '98). $122.00 still owed in pledges. Board will need to decide how to use this money within MOS and the various programs (Education, Sanctuary, and Research). If any thoughts please let Norm know. Will wait until the September meeting so that each Committee Chair can prepare a report that outlines how each Committee works. This should help educate the Board so we can decide how this money should be used.

Treasurer (Jeff Metter) – Annual Report completed, and available if anyone wants a copy.

Secretary (Kathy Neugebauer) – No Report.

Executive Secretary (Will Tress) – No Report. Not present. Bob Rineer reported that Will plans on retiring, and we need suggestions on his replacement for this position. It is the only paid position in MOS. Need to find someone who lives close to Baltimore so they can pick up mail at Cylburne, and has access to electronic mail. Executive Secretary picks up/responds to mail and the 800#. Distributes information to the BoD Meeting, and to the Chapters as well as handles any correspondences. Will to help and guide this new person during the transition to a new Secretary.

Past President (Al Haury) – No Report.

Standing Committee Reports

Budget (Paul Zucker) – No Report. Not present.

Bylaws (Tom Loomis) – See attached. The following proposed changes were discussed and voted upon.

Proposed Manual of Operations Changes

CHANGE #3 (Local Chapters) – APPROVED

CHANGE #6 (V. Standing Committees) – APPROVED

Change made to Publicity Committee to indicate "Annual Meeting" ***instead of*** "Annual Meeting highlights."

CHANGE #7 (Executive Secretary's Duties) – APPROVED

CHANGE #8 (Gifts Committee) – APPROVED

It was noted by Norm that changes to the Manual of Operations goes into effect immediately while changes in the By-Laws must be approved by the General Membership at the next Annual Meeting (in 1999).

Conference (Lou DeMouy) – Report submitted to Chan Robbins. Lou reported that we had 231 "human" registrants for the meeting and 144 "bird" registrants. Still determining the final numbers but it appears as if MOS netted between $2200.00 - $2400.00. $1730.00 came from the Silent Auction, which will be donated, to the Nature Conservancy Activities in Garrett County.

Many thanks to Jeff Metter in coordinating payments for the meeting.

New this year was Evaluation Forms. Over 102 responses were gathered with a lot of suggestions in improving future Conferences. These ranged from suggestions on field trip sign-ups, size of field-trips, sound and light systems, research papers (move to a different time) and a "registration only" option.

Conference for 1999 will be at Solomon's Island in Calvert County (Holiday Inn). Conference is scheduled for **May 14-16, 1999**. Dale Johnson from Jug Bay has volunteered to be the local coordinator. Al Haury, Sue Hamilton, Dottie Mumford, Mike Callahan and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society (represented at the MOS Board Meeting by Ernie Willoughby) will be part of the planning committee to meet in September.

Looking for suggestions on the meeting location for the year 2000. Lou plans on working thru the 1999 Conference and setting up the Year 2000 location and contract before stepping down from this position. Many thanks to Lou and his work on coordinating this meeting.

Conservation (Rich Dolesh) – There are a number of issues both at the national and state level, highlights are noted below:

National Level — 1) Proposed Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, 2) Private Property Rights Issues, 3) Wetlands Protection, and 4) Clean Water Act. No current actions underway.

State Issues – Has been a successful Legislative year. Need to encourage members to examine the voting records of current Legislature as they come up for re-election and how their actions have impacted on the cause for conservation. *Successes* include land reclamations, neighborhood revitalization Acts, World Legacy. Failures include Pfisteria/nutrient management strategies.

Other Issues – ***Teaming with Wildlife***: Need all MOS Chapters to endorse this and fill out the required Endorsement Forms (Edith Thompson with DNR). ***Partner's in Flight***: Looking for new committee chairs. ***Bay Savers Program:*** Looking for nominations for Conservation and Educator of the Year. Please educate chapters and local people on injured and abandoned wildlife.

Education (Sybil Williams) – Not Present. No Report. It was noted that Sybil has agreed to take on this Committee. The goal is to get a member from each Chapter to help with this committee.

Gifts (Richard Cleveland) – No Report. Not present.

Investments (Larry Fry) – No Report. Not present.

Library (Joy Wheeler) – No Report. Not present.

Long-range Planning (Fran Saunders) – Fran Saunders noted that she is presently trying to assimilate Jo Solem's files and will begin this summer to find members for the Committee and begin to define the long-range goals of the organization for the approval of the board later in the year.

Research (David Brinker) – No Report. Not present.

Records (Phil Davis) – Noted that the MOS website has extensive information on the Records Committee. Thanks to Fran and her hard work in maintaining/developing this. Many anecdotal stories about species not officially documented but listed in the Yellow Book. Hope to have these stories written up and available for all to read.

Sanctuary (Dottie Mumford) – Work days scheduled are **Irish Grove**, October 31 and March 27, 1999, and **Carey Run** April 24, 1999. Please try to attend.

Dottie is working on a Sanctuary Guide and hopes to have this completed by this fall. Deadline for getting information to her is July 1. Fran Saunders has agreed to help in formatting the Sanctuary Guide.

Scholarships (Isa Sieracki) – Not oresent. Report submitted to Bob Rineer earlier—8 scholarships had been awarded for the year.

Other Committees and Projects

Atlas (John Malcolm) – No Report. Not present.

County List Coordinator (Phil Davis) – Noted that there is no official "vehicle" for recording county list maximum species counts. Asking for volunteers to "adopt" a county and keep track of these maximum counts. State records will no longer show this by County. Would like the Chapter Presidents to find interested people in doing this. Will write up some information on this to be distributed to the Chapters and via the Yellowthroat.

May Count Coordinator (Leanne Pemburn) – No Report. Not present.

Nominations (Dave Harvey) – Had a resignation. Need one person to help for future nominations committee. Cannot be from Carroll, Allegheny, Anne Arundel or Montgomery Counties.

Publications –

Maryland Bird Life (Chan Robbins) — No Report. Not present.

Yellowthroat (Norm Saunders) — Deadline for submissions is August 1st. Need fall field trip information in to Les Eastman by July 25th.

(continued on next page)

MOS 1998 MD/DC LOCALITY LIST REPORTING FORM

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	County:
State:	Zip:
Phones: (day): ( )	(evening): ( )

II. STATE/COUNTY LIFE AND 1998 LISTS

Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1998	Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1998
Maryland State	408/204			District of Columbia	309/154		
MD Yard List*	-			DC Yard List*	-		
Allegany County	280/140			Howard County	285/142		
Anne Arundel County	329/164			Kent County	293/146		
Baltimore City/County	332/166			Montgomery County	317/158		
Calvert County	298/149			Prince George's County	306/153		
Caroline County	277/138			Queen Anne's County	291/145		
Carroll County	275/137			St. Mary's County	297/148		
Cecil County	274/137			Somerset County	302/151		
Charles County	270/135			Talbot County	305/152		
Dorchester County	312/156			Washington County	257/128		
Frederick County	283/141			Wicomico County	272/136		
Garrett County	265/132			Worcester County	362/181		
Harford County	287/143			All-County List	227/---		

*** Yard List Information:**

County: _____

Location: Home: _____ Work: _____ Other? (specify): _____

Brief Description: (size, habitat, etc):

III. ANNUAL ALL-TIME HIGH LISTS (for previous years)

Locality List	Year	#	Locality List	Year	#

(Attach Additional Sheets If Needed)

1998 MARYLAND/DC LOCALITY LIST COMPILATION

Each year, the MOS compiles and publishes totals from member's state and local bird lists. Forms for submitting 1998 locality lists are provided in this issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat***. You are invited to submit your totals for any of the following list categories:

STATE/COUNTY CUMULATIVE LISTS: This category is for your "lifetime" species totals identified anywhere in the state of Maryland, DC, or within any of the 23 Maryland counties. You may submit totals for any of these localities. Due to space limitations, please only submit totals which exceed 50% of the "maximum" number for each locality. The form contains the latest maximums and the 50% threshold for each locality.

STATE/COUNTY 1998 ANNUAL LISTS: This category is for total species identified only in 1998 for the same localities as above. These totals may be reported at any threshold.

"YARD" LIST: This category is for cumulative yard list totals, and 1998 totals. You may count any species you have identified while in your "yard" (that is, the property contiguous to the site of your home). "Flyovers" and other birds identified from your yard (even if they were not in your yard) also count. Additional information is requested on your "yard".

"ALL-COUNTY" LIST: This category is for counting the number of species you have identified in each of the 23 Maryland counties. For example, if you have identified a Northern Mockingbird, an American Crow, a Downy Woodpecker and a Red-tailed Hawk in each of the 23 Maryland counties, your list total would be "4".

"ALL-TIME HIGH" ANNUAL LISTS: This category is used to track all-time high annual lists from the current and previous years. Annual prior year totals for the various reporting localities may be submitted. For Maryland, submitted totals should equal or exceed 286 (70% of the "maximum possible" number). For individual counties, totals submitted from previous years should exceed either 50% of the "maximum possible" or exceed one of the top totals previously published for that county. See the May/June 1997 issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat*** for previously published totals.

This year, the "maximum possible" numbers have been taken from Field List of the Birds of Maryland (the "1996 yellow book"). Where indivisual state list maintainers have documented addtions to state lists, the totals also reflect those new additions.

We remind those who submitted prior year list totals that it is important to update their totals. Space may not permit publication of lists that are not reasonably current.

Questions ??? Call: Phil Davis (301) 261-0184.

Please return the form BEFORE January 20, 1999 to: Phil Davis
2549 Vale Court
Davidsonville, MD 21035

We hope that all who have participated will do so again, and that others will join in, especially those from localities which are currently less than well represented. If you have any comments, thoughts or anecdotes, please include them. Specifics on your yard habitat and size will also be of interest if your yard list total is especially high. If you have any other categories of Maryland bird lists that are appropriate (for example, all-time or 1998 state/county "Big Day" totals), send them in. We'd like to hear from you.

June Board Meeting Minutes

(continued from previous page)

Environmental Fund (Carol Jelich) – Carol to write up a report that outlines what the Environmental Fund does for publication in the Yellowthroat, this will help clarify any information needed (requested) by the EFM. See #5 MOS action items. Interested in sharing media contacts and possible member information. Check received from the Combined Federal Campaign for $805.31 to be forwarded to Jeff Metter for deposit.

Publicity (Mike Callahan) – See attached Press Releases. One will be released on the Annual Meeting Highlights. Suggestions on Press Releases? Please suggest!

OLD BUSINESS

Director and Officers Liability Insurance Issues still outstanding. Betsy Taylor had reviewed policies and we have two options for liability $500,000 versus $1,000,000. Premiums are $774.00 and $930.00 respectively. Still unsure of the deductible, and who will pay (MOS)? Would like to proceed with this before the September Meeting and will make an executive decision by the Board when this information is obtained.

NEW BUSINESS

Questions brought up about an e-mail list of all MOS members. Rick Sussman (Montgomery County Chapter) has agreed to coordinate and effort to contact the local Chapters to gather this information. Will put together information about this for the *Yellowthroat*.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen A. Neugebauer, Secretary

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of September 7, 1998

by Phil Davis

The reports below have changed in status since the last committee report was published in the MD Yellowthroat (MD/DC record numbers are in parenthesis):

MD Records Accepted:

Black-capped Petrel (#1997-500)
Atlantic Ocean (180 due east of OC), Worcester County,
July 18, 1979.

Black-capped Petrel (#1997-750)
St. Michael's, Talbot County,
September 11, 1996.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (#1996-023)
Sandy Spring, Montgomery County,
November 20, 1995.

Barrow's Goldeneye (#1997-630)
Patuxent River NAS, Saint Mary's County,
January 22, 1997-March 1, 1997.

Barrow's Goldeneye (#1997-495)
St. George's Island, Saint Mary's County,
February 7, 1997-February 9, 1997.

Masked Duck (#1997-492)
Elkton - Elk River Marshes, Cecil County,
September 8, 1905.

Gyrfalcon (#1995-017)
New Design Road, Frederick County,
February 9, 1994.

Yellow Rail (#1997-308)
Elliott Island, Dorchester County,
April 24, 1969.

MD Records Accepted (cont.):

Yellow Rail (#1997-343)
Elliott Island, Dorchester County,
May 5, 1971.

Clapper Rail (#1996-015)
Cumberland, Allegany County,
August 30, 1962.

Clapper Rail (#1996-016)
Jug Bay - House Creek Marsh, Anne Arundel County,
September 3, 1974.

Purple Gallinule (#1997-444)
Seneca, Montgomery County,
July 19, 1953.

Purple Gallinule (#1997-359)
Carroll's Island, Baltimore County,
June 14, 1976.

Purple Gallinule (#1998-001)
Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County,
May 30, 1978-July 1, 1978.

Red-necked Stint (#1997-372)
Ocean City, Worcester County,
August 19, 1995.

South Polar Skua (#1997-256)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,
June 18, 1978.

South Polar Skua (#1997-413)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,
June 18, 1978.

South Polar Skua (#1997-301)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,
July 20, 1979.

California Gull (#1997-093)
Laytonsville Landfill, Montgomery County,
January 23, 1993.

California Gull (#1997-249)
West Ocean City, Worcester County,
November 28, 1994.

California Gull (#1997-295)
Laytonsville Landfill, Montgomery County,
January 12, 1995.

California Gull (#1997-285)
Conowingo Dam, Harford County,
January 28, 1995.

California Gull (#1997-456)
Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore County,
October 26, 1996.

Common Murre (#1995-013)
Ocean City Inlet, Worcester County,
December 29, 1976-December 30, 1976.

Common Murre (#1997-236)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,
January 16, 1977.

Common Murre (#1997-180)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,
March 12, 1994.

Common Murre (#1997-422)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,
February 25, 1995.

Thick-billed Murre (#1995-006)
Franklintown Road, Baltimore County,
March 6, 1962-March 7, 1962.

Thick-billed Murre (#1997-237)
Assateague Island, Worcester County,
January 9, 1977.

Thick-billed Murre (#1997-297)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,

(continued on next page)

MD Records Accepted (cont.):

February 26, 1995.

Thick-billed Murre (#1997-423)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,
February 26, 1995.

Common Ground-Dove (#1997-306)
Sandy Point, Anne Arundel County,
November 10, 1977.

Gray Kingbird (#1995-035)
Point Lookout State Park, Saint Mary's County,
July 22, 1995.

Northern Shrike (#1997-335)
Sandy Point, Anne Arundel County,
November 9, 1977-November 10, 1977.

Northern Shrike (#1997-556)
Chesapeake City, Cecil County,
January 27, 1991-February 3, 1991.

Northern Shrike (#1994-023)
Assateague Is, Worcester County,
November 25, 1991-November 30, 1991.

Northern Shrike (#1997-374)
Piney Run Park, Carroll County,
January 22, 1994-January 23, 1994.

Northern Shrike (#1997-287)
Sunshine, Montgomery County,
December 17, 1994.

Northern Shrike (#1997-356)
Grasonville, Queen Anne's County,
November 18, 1995-December 22, 1995.

Northern Shrike (#1997-399)
Lilypons, Frederick County,
November 26, 1995.

Western Tanager (#1997-298)
Takoma Park, Montgomery County,
April 22, 1978-April 29, 1978.

Black-headed Grosbeak (#1995-005)
Pikesville, Baltimore County,
January 7, 1961-March 15, 1961.

Black-headed Grosbeak (#1997-384)
Westmoreland Hills, Montgomery County,
February 3, 1963-April 8, 1963.

Black-headed Grosbeak (#1997-385)
Westmoreland Hills, Montgomery County,
December 7, 1963-March 31, 1964.

Black-headed Grosbeak (#1997-311)
Accokeek, Prince George's County,
January 13, 1969-January 18, 1969.

Painted Bunting (#1997-234)
Kensington, Montgomery County,
April 18, 1972.

MD Records Accepted (cont.):

Painted Bunting (#1997-431)
Eastern Neck NWR, Kent County,
May 21, 1992.

Painted Bunting (#1997-427)
Berlin, Worcester County,
February 15, 1993-April 8, 1993.

Painted Bunting (#1997-734)
Hollywood, Saint Mary's County,
February 18, 1993-March 2, 1993.

Lark Bunting (#1997-221)
Taylor's Island/Slaughter's Creek, Dorchester County,
July 10, 1958.

Lark Bunting (#1997-220)
Denton, Caroline County,
August 18, 1966.

Lark Bunting (#1997-314)
Blue Plains, Prince George's County,
December 3, 1968.

Lark Bunting (#1997-315)
Angelica Nursery, Kent County,
November 18, 1977-December 25, 1977.

Lark Bunting (#1997-274)
Assateague Isand National Seashore, Worcester County,
September 5, 1994.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Pacific Loon (#1997-471)
Ocean City, Worcester County,
January 4, 1997.

Arctic Tern (#1995-034)
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County,
May 16, 1976.

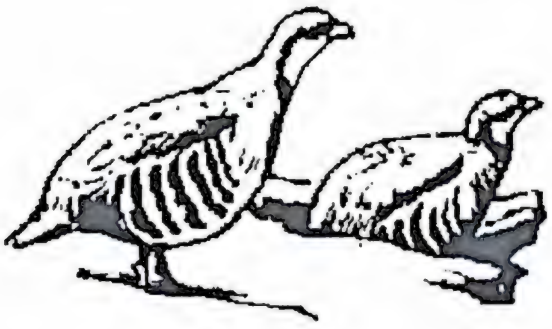
Cave Swallow (#1996-026)
North Beach, Calvert County,
May 20, 1996.

Bewick's Wren (#1996-020)
U of M Central Farm, Howard County,
September 6, 1993.

DC Records Accepted:

California Gull (#1997-091)
Georgetown Reservior, DC,
January 15, 1993-January 16, 1993.

Black-headed Grosbeak (#1998-021)
Westmoreland Hills, DC,
February 3, 1963-April 8, 1963.



The Texas Classic, Part I

(continued from page 4)

I met teammate #1, Ned Brinkley (VA professor and naturalist who some of you may know from his help on Brian Patteson's pelagic trips), in Houston on the 24th, and we scouted the Central Coast section over the next two days (where scouting is least important and fewer specialties occur). We met our team captain, Andy Farnsworth, VENT leader and birder extraordinaire (who I first met as a 13 year old at a VENT camp in Arizona), on Sunday, April 28, in Harlingen where we made our plans for the first time over a bottomless salad at The Olive Garden. Andy had been scouting the Valley over the past week (though interrupted by a few mishaps, including a broken sunroof), so we drafted a route based mainly on his successes and failures, but to a lesser extent based on the little scouting that Ned and I had done that morning (we found Botteri's Sparrow, Red-crowned Parrot, and Tropical Kingbird, all of which Andy had missed). Finally, after a little shopping and some logistical things to clear up, a little bit of last minute scouting (no Black Rails), we checked into a hotel room at 10:30 p.m. for 1 hour's rest before heading to Bentsen for our nocturnal work.

[A quick note on the car: Andy's Subaru outback has to be one of the best birding vehicles available: Four doors (key feature for easy in and out of car), all wheel drive (obviously necessary), decent pickup and excellent cornering (which we put to the test at least once), and, best of all — TWO sunroofs (anyone who has done a big day knows how great the sunroof is for birding from the car).]

April 27, 12:01 a.m. — A Paraque calling at Bentsen is our first bird, followed closely by Eastern Screech Owl and Elf Owl. A Bobcat sleeked across the road fast enough to leave at least one of us (me) wondering (hopefully) if it wasn't an Ocelot. After a little effort, we heard a distant Great Horned Owl. A few other birds sounded off (i.e. YB Cuckoo, Olive Sparrow) but the wind was very strong and little nocturnal migration was taking place). With those essential four nightbirds, we struck out westward where we hoped to pick up Barn Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, and, with luck, a Poorwill (for which we had no location). Lesser Nighthawk came easily at Salineno, and the sound of a distant Poorwill was a shocker and certainly a good omen for us all. At that point it was 2:30 a.m. and we were fresh out of ideas for how to spend the 4 hours until daybreak. After a bit of aimless driving (hoping more for rare mammals than any new birds, though we still needed Barn Owl) we finally surrendered and got a bit of shuteye. We woke as the first birds started to chip, did a quick loop in the Falcon Dam Trailer loop and then bolted for Zapata where we hoped to catch the White-collared Seedeaters as they woke up. Imagine our despair (after the costly 50 minute round trip drive during dawn chorus) when we found, instead of the seedeaters, three bulldozers rampaging the lot RIGHT NEXT to the shrubby area favored by the seedeaters. Needless to say, our elation at having swept the night birds was dampened somewhat. Constant attention to the skies, wires, and roadsides gave quick remedy to our morale as we picked up some key species on the return trip, and a quick loop through Falcon (again) netted essentials such as Western Kingbird, Cassin's Sparrow, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Black-throated Sparrow. We really caught up once we reached the Dam spillway, where Muscovy, both kingfishers, and stakeout Yellow-headed Blackbird and Black Phoebe (only our team knew of this bird, though it was easily visible from the Dam where all teams must have gone) came easily. Brown Jays were at Chapena, and Salineno saved a miss on Audubon's Oriole. We tried Santa Margarita Ranch as Red-billed Pigeon, a stakeout Surf Scoter, and Hook-billed Kite were creeping towards the miss category, and our last ditch effort didn't help with those species. Almost an hour behind schedule, we hauled eastward to Bentsen enjoying a massive raptor flight from the sunroof as we went. Among the several thousand Turkey Vultures were hundreds of Swainson's and Broad- winged hawks, a Harrier, a few Sharpies, a couple of Red-tails, kestrels, and several Peregrines. At Bentsen we picked up Cooper's Hawk, Tyrannulet, Mississippi Kite, and, the best of the day, an immature dark morph Short-tailed Hawk. Texas has only a small handful of accepted records of this bird. Trying to make up lost time, we virtually flew to Anzalduas Park, where the Tropical Parula sang as if on cue when we arrived (though the Red-breasted Nuthatch there the day before stayed quiet). Another speedy trip from there to Santa Ana, where we decided we would have to RUN if we hoped to include the essential Cinnamon Teal in our list and still make the Brownsville Dump by closing time. A bit out of breath but with Cinnamon Teal (and a few others) we hopped back in the car ahead of schedule for the first time since those blasted bulldozers. A Vesper Sparrow along the road on the way (which I missed) turned out to be essential. No crows at the dump, so with Horned Lark and a nice dark adult Harlan's Hawk, we rolled on to the Sabal Palm Grove. We did a quick check at the Tamaulipas Crow nest site (though no birds had been there the day before) and were shocked to see a bird sitting on the nest! The Palm Grove had a good number of migrants, as well as Groove-billed Ani. No Yellow-green Vireo though. We missed the Brownsville Tropical Kingbird that Ned and I had seen the day before, but got Green Parakeet easily. A trip out to our Botteri's Sparrow location had no Botteri's in the late afternoon heat and wind, but was a smashing success nonetheless: bonus birds included King Rail and Northern Pintail, and Swamp Sparrow and Sedge Wren were good to get out of the way. At that point we were at a crux — should we go north for a stakeout Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl or try South Padre Island which has some great migrant spots? The owl was a major time sacrifice, but South Padre could be a bust or could be good, but might still produce nothing we wouldn't get on the other two days. Resisting the glamour bird, we chose South Padre and were rewarded with a mini-fallout that contained a number of essential birds (a lateish Ruby-crowned Kinglet among them). That was certainly our best move of the day. Efforts after dark to improve our list failed miserably as the wind (which had been calm since dawn) picked up and tired bodies tried to continue the effort despite severe sleep deprivation. We packed it in even before midnight.

The next morning we got a late start, but split into two teams (me and Andy as team #1, and Ned as team #2). By now, some discussions with other teams made it obvious that there were three main contenders out there for the first prize. We, of course, were one. The Mac Attack (arguably the best team name in the Classic — Tony Leukering (CO), Brandon Percival (CO), Jim Dowdell (NJ), and Brian Gibbons (TX) from Colorado Bird Observatory, whose emblem/mascot is MacGillivray's Warbler (hence the great pun on the name) were also front runners. And, of course, the returning champion team, sponsored by Compaq computers and composed of top birders Giff Beaton (GA), Roger Breedlove (LA), Ron Weeks (TX), and Dwight Peake (VA/TX). The year prior they had had 298 over the three days, leaving all other teams in the dust by at least 30 species. They were the Big Bad Wolf we feared most — we knew we had more scouting time than The Mac Attackers, and were fairly confident it would pay off in the end. The Compaq team was ultra competitive, and refused to give out ANY info to us newcomers, which can't be held against them at all — no reason they should give out all their hard-earned secrets. I did run into Roger Breedlove while looking for Red-cockaded Woodpecker early on and he steered me towards a nest, under penalty of death or worse if I spilled it to anyone else. Apparently it is the only nest in the area that is accessible. Sort of ironic that our one tip came from Roger, considering...well, read on.

Our scouting that day did not solve much of our trouble with nailing down a good Central Coast route. Only a couple of birds were most easily found on the Central Coast, and the only species really unique to that section (Whooping Crane and Greater Prairie-Chicken)

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were out of the question - the cranes had migrated and the last of the chickens had been taken into captivity just weeks prior. We did find some good migrant spots and centered our route around those. Otherwise, we decided to try to clean up as much stuff as we could, and had a few target stakeouts (ducks, Black-chinned Hummer, White-crowned Sparrow). We went out for a Japanese dinner the night prior — one of the "cook on the table" places that I loved so much as a kid (and still do) where the cook is more a comedian than a chef, and spends all his time cracking jokes, juggling, and throwing food (we took it as a good omen that all three of us caught the in our mouths the shrimp that he flipped to us). A token three hours of sleep, then some cleanup night work awaited us. The figure 8 route we had decided upon was more like a Formula 1 racetrack than a big day route, but we thought it would serve us best to net the species we needed.

April 29, 4:00 a.m. - A Chuck-will's-widow perching on wires in Bluchard Park in downtown Corpus Christi was the first new bird of the day. A fair migration was underway and Dickcissels and thrushes were passing overhead. We circled north out of Corpus and caught the ferry over to Mustang Island. A small marsh and observation tower there had held two rails and Least Bittern 12 hours prior, and Sora and Virginia Rail were easily agitated in the relatively still night. Though we were only after birds new for the cumulative list, we kept track of everything for the day list, and the Upland Sandpiper that whit-whitted overhead was a nice little bonus. The remainder of the night was spent wandering about trying for Whip-poor-will or Barn Owl, but as dawn started to break, we pushed the pedal down and returned to Bluchard Park for dawn chorus. A good number of migrants were in there. The park has a number of scrubby little trees, an overgrown stream area, and some big mulberries in the center of the park which lure the grosbeaks and tanagers in like a backyard feeder does the cardinals. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and several other migrants we had missed on South Padre Island fell into line easily. Gray-cheeked Thrush was good to get out of the way early (and was a potential nocturnal migrant, and one we could (theoretically) trade in for a little more sleep down the line!). House Wren was a complete bonus — they are only migrants on that section of coast and most had passed through long since. A Black-chinned Hummingbird on the nest (with a male nearby to simplify the ID) was essential. Though we already had the bird, the Chuck-will's-widows in that park are possibly its greatest attribute. Invariably, in an hour there, one would flush several out of the thickets and trees, and at dawn and dusk many would fly around and around looking for a roosting spot. I had never seen the species in the daylight before, and here were 10 or so flying around and flushing at my feet! Never mind, a big day was on. Though we couldn't solicit information from other birders, the Mourning Warbler that another had found and blurted out to us before we could stop him was fair game. We looked for a good 15 minutes, but never found it. Our next stop was a little shorebird marsh where we cleaned up most of our shorebird misses, and found our stakeout Long-billed Curlew (though we missed the stakeout Hudsonian Godwit — a spectacular bird in breeding plumage!). Then we crossed back over to Mustang Island for the second time that day, and hit a few good migrant spots there. We cleaned up a few misses, and found the Canada Warbler that we needed so badly. Following the Canada was the most serendipitous hour of the day. We took a small road down through the bay shore shrubbery hoping to clean up a few missing migrants. While driving, Andy and I picked up a flyby warbler, glassed it through the windshield, turned to each other as we jumped out of the car and said, "That looked like a Nashville" (one we needed). I stayed on it and watched it drop into a shrub that we charged for regardless of what pit vipers might be laying in the beach grass (Western Diamondback is reputedly common here) and with abundant spishing and other noisemaking, lured the Nashville into view. We hopped back in the car, and zoomed on to the spot where a Traill's Flycatcher had popped up the previous day. No flycatcher there, but House Wren and Yellow-headed Blackbird were surprises (though neither was new). Better, and more shocking, was a Snipe that flushed from a wet area. Not a bird we counted on, it raised our spirits and we charged ahead hoping now for an American Bittern (we had spotted a Least Bittern an hour earlier just before the ferry crossing). Next, a Merlin, another surprise and one of few raptors we still needed, buzzed by. More elated and with even less regard for rattlers, we charged on, circled round a row of bushes, and startled a snake! It darted away and its pale gray body and rattleless tail indicated a Coachwhip but reminded us to use a little more caution. After I darted over to look at the snake, a sparrow flushed and Andy and I again turned to each other, this time saying, "That looked like a Le Conte's"!! A hot pursuit and two more flushings convinced all three of us, and the bird gave good looks (though in flight only) as it hovered away and settled in again. Quite a distinctive sparrow in flight. Not believing our good luck, we completed the circuit, momentarily sidetracked by a twitch in the bushes,. I charged over, followed by the other two. No bird revealed itself, but on returning out Ned froze in his tracks, and shouted some vulgar expletive. Though we had each used similar language to express our surprise at the snipe, Merlin, and sparrow, something in Ned's tone was different. Stepping carefully, I made my way over and followed his startled expression to a 3.5 foot Western Diamondback Rattlesnake coiled in his path. We must have passed within scant feet of the reptile on our way in. We stepped slowly and carefully back out to the road and headed back out. As we hit the pavement again a bird flushed next to us and we cried almost in unison.....CUCKOO!! .Bl...Bl...BLACK- BILLED!!! Four complete bonus birds since the Canada Warbler, and a few others that were entirely "missable" (e.g. Nashville Warbler). A quick sea watch was a bust, save for a Red Knot. We moved on to another migrant spot, Packery Channel, but only Wood Thrush was new there, and we had to do some elaborate evasive maneuvers to ditch a camera crew that was filming the event. Fortunately, we were able to lead the cameraman past the more photogenic youth team, the Texas Audubon Thrashers. After losing them, we returned for the THIRD time to Bluchard Park and cleaned up a few misses (in the company of about 6 other teams this time) including Traill's Flycatcher. After the second loop was completed, we hit Rockport where Ned and I had scouted out some diving ducks — and we quickly nailed Redhead, both scaup, Canvasback, and Common Loon. It was now close to 1:00, and we had few more key species to try for. Our plan was to go on a wild goose chase for two birds. We had heard a rumor of a Common Goldeneye 1.5 hours to the north (but had not had time to scout it out) and had made arrangements in Victoria to visit a feeder that held a lingering White-crowned Sparrow. The Goldeneye was a complete bust, and cost 2.5 hours of time (that we didn't know what to do with anyhow). The sparrow however was one of our favorite moments of the event. We had been in touch with the woman in advance and had made arrangements to visit and see her bird. We had instructed her in advance to not even mention if the bird was around — even though it would have been incredibly costly to make the 3 hour round trip if the bird was not there, the rules prohibited soliciting information from others under any circumstances. We called from the road (Andy had a cell phone — essential piece of equipment!) and she dutifully kept her mouth shut. When we arrived at her house, we were welcomed inside and positioned by the window nearest the feeder. After five minutes of small talk, a short call note revealed the bird's presence atop a brush pile. Instantly she and her husband burst out with a gasp of relief. Apparently the bird had been there just minutes before we arrived and they were scared silly it wouldn't show up for us. But, sworn to silence, they were having a terrible time not spilling the beans! The couple was so friendly and hospitable that they wouldn't let us out the door without two bags full of homemade cookies —

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costing us a few minutes of Big Day time, but the most worthwhile sacrifice of all — the cookies were excellent. We still had a couple of hours of daylight left and elected to drive back roads near Aransas for Wild Turkey. We had no turkeys, but as we drove along, I spotted a strange looking flycatcher atop a willow that seemed to have a strange patch of misarranged feathers on its back. Either it was a Kingbird with strange plumage or...OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Total bonus! We got a few other cleanup species (Solitary Sandpiper, Myrtle Warbler) in Aransas that were essential, but the Javelina (Peccary — life mammal) that crossed the road caused the most excitement by far. We stationed ourselves, alone, at the top of the Aransas Tower for any dusk flight. Our only new bird was a White Pelican that Ned found roosting many miles off, a mere white speck in the fading light, but amazingly the only one we would see (up to several hundred had been around the Upper Coast earlier). Thinking only of sleep on the way out, we were as startled by the Whip-poor-will (another complete bonus that we had long since written off) as it was by us. A spectacular end to a very fortuitous day. A couple Barn Owl stops were unsuccessful and relegated that species to our final night effort, May 1.

Up early and still 6 hours short of a good night's sleep, I drove the six hours north to the Upper Texas Coast's Pineywoods region to perfect our dawn route and try to find a few additional species (Worm-eating Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Towhee, Yellow-shafted Flicker). We ended up renting another car to maximize scouting (and so that one of us could drop off the "official list" at an "official drop off location", a weird quirk of the rules of the event). Our scouting went well, though we only found a few of our targets. We met up at the Holiday Inn where the event was to finish, got some dinner, planned our final Big Day and headed out to Anahuac where we hoped to be as the clock turned.

See the next issue for the completion of Marshall's saga !

Red-Tails in Love

(continued from page 5)

for yourself!

Marie Winn has included a few sections that will help you choose the best time of year for your trip (whether or not you have tickets to The Lion King), not only for the over 200 possible species of birds, but also for the butterflies and for edible plants. Also included is a bibliography and a comprehensive index. If you need more direction, she introduces us to the many people she found among the birders and Central Park nature lovers. (The Regulars, she calls them.) You may not recognize them by name, but you will recognize their manner and their genuine desire to help others arrive at a heightened understanding of how nature interfaces with human society. You've done the same yourself in Hagerstown or Oakland or with the Inner Harbor peregrines, haven't you? I know you have.

ed. note: Joy Wheeler needs no introduction. A member of the Baltimore Chapter, she has ably served as the MOS Librarian for over a decade, and has contributed numerous book reviews to both MD Yellowthroat and Maryland Birdlife. We welcome her back once again!

Identification Guide to NA Birds

(continued from page 5)

features and a chart which shows the probability of determining each age and sex category in each month of the year. The account finishes with a list of sources for the information beyond subspecies (the bibliography is 32 pages of dreadfully small print!). And, an *errata* listing is available on the Web (http://www.prbo.org/prbo/Errata.html).

So – should you want this book? If you are a birder who gets great pleasure from recognizing the difference between spring male Black-and-white and Blackpoll Warblers the answer is probably "no". There is too much information here that probably goes beyond the level of detail you are able to see at your stage of awareness. If however, you are eagerly acquiring the specialty books, e.g. Jim Rising's "Sparrows" or Jon Dunn and Kimball Garret's magnificent new (Peterson) warbler guide and are actually learning to use the information, this could get you to an even higher level of field acuity. All you have to learn is what to look for and how to see it. Expect the process to take a long time and to be the normal mixture of teeth-gritting along with the rewards. The learning will happen faster if you can spend some time at a migration banding station so you can experience the detail at point blank range (if often moistly).

My major frustration with the book is the number of times I have to read identical words in so many species accounts as the author describes feather shape and wear differences. There must be a simpler way to deal with that information. The bulk all that repetition adds to the book is substantial. The real danger is that the repetition can lead readers to skimming and the potential of missing something useful. My other disappointments so far involve measurements for sex determination and the refusal of some birds to follow the instructions in the book. The first is not an issue to concern a non-handling bird observer and the second is generic to all descriptive treatises. Oh well!

This is indeed a good book! It's absolutely state of the art for 1998. But I'm already eager for the new discoveries that will surely appear in the next edition. There's just too much we don't yet know.

Peter Pyle's **Identification Guide to North American Birds: Part 1** is available for $39.90 including postage and handling (quantity discounts possible) from

Slate Creek Press
P.O. Box 219
Bolinas, CA 94924
415-868-1221 ext. 21.

Reviewed by David W. Holmes, Columbia, MD, 26 September 1998

ed. note: for those of you who haven't had the privilege of meeting or birding with David, he is a musician, a naturalist, and, one can say with no worry of being contradicted, a true Renaissance Man. He has participated in close to 100 Christmas Bird Counts, has been involved in countless summer banding activities, teaches courses in field birding at Johns Hopkins University, and regularly attends AOU convocations as a speaker. At the same time he is reaching out, he is also looking inward, an acknowledged expert on the birds of Howard County, MD. We are both pleased and privileged to have this review of an outstanding book from an outstanding field birder. Thank you, David Holmes!

MOS Activities
November 1998 — January 1999

Sunday, November 1

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot to walk around the lake. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Don Meritt.. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank.

Tuesday, November 3

MEETING. Baltimore. "Churchill: Living on the Edge" by Robert E. Mumford, Jr. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Wednesday, November 4

MEETING. Carroll. "Owls of the Eastern United States" by Rick Blum. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. For more information, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Havre de Grace Promenade. Casual morning walk along Havre de Grace shoreline for loons, waterfowl, and Bald Eagle. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Tydings Marina, Commerce and Market Streets. For additional information, contact the leaders, Dave or Macrina Seitz, 410-838-2150.

Thursday, November 5

MEETING. Frederick. "Machias Seal Island and Other New England Locations," by Wilbur Hershberger. 7:30 p.m. at the Frederick High School music room. Call Wilbur for more information at 301-898-9088.

Friday, November 6

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Chile – Driest Desert in the World" by Dr. Robert Trever. 8:00 p.m. at The Media Center, Annapolis Senior High School, 2700 Riva Road, Annapolis.

MEETING. Harford. "Russian Sea Eagles" by Dr. Mike McGrady. Meet at 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-452-8539.

Saturday, November 7

WORK DAY. Frederick. Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and help us with our annual workday at the sanctuary, planting trees, mending fences, and spotting a good bird or two. Contact David Smith at (410) 549-7082 for details.

FIELD TRIP. Jug Bay. Fall Migrating Raptors. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Courtemanche, at 301-248-2779.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Eastern Neck NWR. 9:00 a.m. to noon. For further information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

Sunday, November 8

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Horsehead Sanctuary, Queen Anne's County. Waterfowl, migrants and captive species. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Busch's Chesapeake Inn restaurant located off Rt. 50 on Busch's Frontage Road. For further information, contact the leader, Sue Ricciardi at 410-647-9513.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Waterfowl Tour. Morning trip will visit several locations along eastern border of county for possible Northern Shoveler, Oldsquaw, and scoters. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Rod 'n' Gun Club on APG's Edgewood Area, south end of MD 24 (named Hoadley Road on post). For additional information, contact the leader, Dave Webb at 410-939-3537.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot to walk around the lake. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Myrtle Grove WMA and Vicinity. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Oxon Hill Children's Farm or 8:30 a.m. at Myrtle Grove. Trip will stop at fast-food place for lunch. For reservations and additional information, contact the leader, Frank Witebsky, at 301-871-7990.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Marge Steffens.. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank.

Tuesday, November 10

MEETING. Kent. "Tri-State Bird Rescue." 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library in Chestertown. For further information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

Thursday, November 12

MEETING. Howard. "A Tale of Two Islands: Appledore in Maine and the Farallons in California," by David Holmes. Programs held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session/bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting /program at 8:00 p.m. For information Call Mike Kerwin 410-461-2408.

MEETING. Montgomery. Bake Sale, followed by presentation by member and avid world birder Gail MacKiernan. Gail accompanied a Scripps Oceanographic vessel on a geology survey at the deep trench off South America, where she counted and videotaped "Seabirds in the Time of El Nino." 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136.

MEETING. Talbot. "Fishes of the Choptank" by Nick Carter. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Crestar Bank in Easton.

Friday-Sunday, November 13-15

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Chincoteague. Weekend trip along Virginia coastline for waterfowl, shorebirds, and much more. For additional information, contact either Jean or Larry Fry, at 410-452-8539, by Saturday, November 7.

Friday, November 13

MEETING. Cecil. Mark Johnson of the Harford Bird Club will speak about the Wood Thrush. 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary Anne's Parish House in North East. For more information, call Marcia Watson-Whitmyre at 410-398-0125.

Saturday, November 14

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Wooten's Landing, new county park and created wetlands. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Piney Run Park. Walk the hilly trails around the lake edges for waterfowl and winter land birds. Telescopes recommended. Meet 8:00 a.m. at entrance gate. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander, at 410-381-5574.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Looking for fall waterfowl & more at Piney Run Park, Sykesville, MD. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the park gate on Martz Road. For more information, contact the trip leader, Jerry Tarbell, at 410-857-1109.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Eagle Watch at Conowingo Dam: Join us at the dam for eagles, waterfowl, and gulls. Meet at Fisherman's Parking lot at 8:00 a.m. For more information contact Scott 410-658-2368 or Marcia 410-398-0125.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Geese, swans, eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the visitor center parking lot (US fee area). Bring lunch and scope. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Jim Green, at 301-258-7344.

Sunday, November 15

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Eastern Neck NWR, Kent County. Many wintering waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Busch's Chesapeake Inn restaurant located off Rt. 50 on Busch's Frontage Road. For further information, contact the leaders, Bobbi Reichwein at 410-451-2671 or Mary O'Leary at 410-798-6905.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot to walk around the lake. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Lilypons - New Design Road. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree sparrows and possible Loggerhead Shrike. Will include stop at Black Hill Reservoir, if conditions look good for waterbirds. For reservations and further information, contact the leader, Gail MacKiernan, at 301-989-1828.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Les Coble.. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank.

Tuesday, November 17

MEETING. Washington. Members' Night - bring your favorite slides and bird stories for 1998. We'll have some of Norma Lewis' slides to show. For further information, contact Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Wednesday, November 18

MEETING. Allegany. Wayne Yoder, a professor at Frostburg State University and one of our members, will present a program entitled "Exploring Websites." No, Wayne is not in the computer department; he teaches entomology, so I think we can expect a program about spiders. 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Building, 108 Washington St., Cumberland. For further information, contact Gladys Faherty at 301-689-8710.

Thursday, November 19

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Ecology for Birders" by Dr. Wayne Bell, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. 7:00 p.m. at the Leonardtown Library, Leonardtown, MD. For further information and directions, call Mike Callahan at 301-490-9318 or 301-743-3526.

Friday, November 20

MEETING. Caroline. "Bald Eagles" by Glenn Therres. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday, November 21

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Sandy Point State Park for a variety of fall and wintering birds. Half day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Busch's Chesapeake Inn restaurant located off Rt. 50 on Busch's Frontage Road. For further information, contact the leader, Hal Wierenga, at 410-647-7439.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Blackwater NWR. All-day trip to see ducks, thousands of Canada and Snow Geese, and possible Bald Eagle or Brown-headed Nuthatch. Meet at the refuge Visitors Center. Birding mostly from cars, one short level walk. Telescopes useful. Trip will break up in early afternoon. Meet 9:30 a.m. at visitor center. For further information, contact the leader, Taylor McLean, at 410-377-7622.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. See Bald Eagles & wintering gulls at Conowingo Dam. Meet trip leader Bill Kulp 8:00 a.m. at the Owings Mills Metro Lot off Rt. 795 (south lot near Painters Mill Road). Bring a lunch. For more info, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Urbana Park-and-Ride at 6:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088 for more information.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eastern Neck. All-day trip to NWR in Kent County productive for grebes, swans, diving ducks, and winter sparrows. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the I-95 & MD 155 commuter lot (Exit 89). For further information, contact the leaders, Jean and Larry Fry, at 410-452-8539.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Sandy Point State Park. Wintering waterfowl, other waterbirds, some landbirds, including possible Snow Buntings. Meet just beyond park tollbooth at 9 a.m. (no entrance fee this time of year). For further information, contact the leader, Don Messersmith, at 301-593-5942.

Sunday, November 22

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Loons along Susquehanna: Join Marcia Whitmyre as we travel along the river looking for loons, waterfowl, eagles and gulls. For more information contact Marcia at 410-398-0125.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot to walk around the lake. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Huntley Meadows County Park, VA. Waterfowl and winter residents. No reservations necessary. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot near the Visitors' Center. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Mike Bowen, at 301-530-5764.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Dick Kleen to the Talbot County Waste Treatment Facility. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Acme parking lot in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton.

Saturday, November 28

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR, Dorchester County. This trip leaves at noon to catch the beauty of Blackwater in the late afternoon. Ducks, Canada and Snow Geese and Bald Eagles beckon. Meet 12 noon in the parking lot of Busch's Chesapeake Inn restaurant located off Rt. 50 on Busch's Frontage Road. For further information, contact the leader, Barbara Ricciardi, at 301-464-1962.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Dam. Morning trip to acclaimed site along Susquehanna River for possible Golden Eagle, Great Cormorant, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the base of the dam at Fisherman's Park, east end of Shures Landing Road. For additional information, contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood, at 410-692-5905.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Sandy Point State Park for snow buntings, waterfowl and gulls. Meet at the Rt. 32 and Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Darius Ecker, at 410-312-9165.

Tuesday, December 1

MEETING. Baltimore. "Wildlife of Namibia" by Hank Kaestner. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Wednesday, December 2

MEETING. Carroll. "Life Zones of Northern Colorado" by Jerry Tarbell. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. For more info, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, December 3

CHRISTMAS DINNER. Frederick. Our annual Christmas dinner is held at the Araby Church. Reservations are required. The program will be "The Nature of New Zealand," presented by Dr. Steve Rannels of the Hershey Medical Center. Call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088 for information and reservations.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Backroads of Montgomery County. Explore little known back roads of our county in search of wintering hedge and field birds. A two-car caravan will stay in touch via state-of-the-art CB radios. Lunch at up-county restaurant. For details and reservations, contact the leader, Rich Bray, at 301-652-0387.

Friday, December 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Gillnet Mortality on Atlantic Coast" by Doug Forsell. 8:00 p.m. at The Media Center, Annapolis Senior High School, 2700 Riva Road, Annapolis.

Saturday, December 5

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southern Maryland. All-day trip to Point Lookout and other locations. Scoters, Oldsquaw, Great Cormorants, Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Gannets possible. Birding near cars with minimal walking. Telescopes useful. Bring Lunch. Trip may not go if weather judged unfavorable. For further information, contact the leaders, Steve Sanford, at 410-922-5103 or tanager@bcpl.net; or Pete Webb at 410-486-1217 or pwebb@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Coastal Waterfowl: Join the dynamic duck duo of Scott and Kelly Powers as they try to find as many waterfowl species as possible in a day. Please make reservations for this trip as some areas have limited parking (limit 3 cars). For more information contact Scott or Kelly at 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Waterfowl in Frederick County. Have you seen all 22 species of ducks that can be found in Frederick County? Join Wilbur Hershberger, 301-898-9088), to add to your list. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake boathouse in Frederick.

Sunday, December 6

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Looking for waterfowl on this daylong trip to Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge & Remington Farms in Kent County. For more info, contact trip leader Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Cape Henlopen. Good location for Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting, Ipswich Sparrow, and sea ducks. Bring lunch and warm, comfortable clothing. All-day trip; meet at 6:00 a.m. at the I-95 / MD 155 commuter lot (Exit 89). For further information, contact the leader, Russ Kovach, evenings at 410-679-0535.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Wintering ducks, raptors, possibly some shorebirds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the main parking lot; follow signs from Kenilworth Ave. southbound shortly after Rte. 50. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Bill Dobbins, at 202-338-1321.

Tuesday, December 8

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Jarrettsville Nurseries. Morning hike at Christmas tree farm near Rocks State Park for hawks, bluebirds, winter sparrows and finches. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the nursery's parking lot on Holy Cross Road, half mile north of St. Clair Bridge Road. For further information contact the leader, Tom Congersky, at 410-676-6489.

MEETING. Kent. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library in Chestertown. For further information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

Thursday, December 10

MEETING. Howard. "Research Findings on Steller's Sea Eagle in Russia," by Mike McGrady. Programs held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session/bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program at 8:00 p.m. For information call Mike Kerwin, 410-461-2408.

MEETING. Montgomery. Naturalist, teacher, artist, and ABA and ABC Board member William R. Stott, Jr., relates his numerous trips to our globe's far south in his slide lecture, "Ice, Wind, Water and Flight: Birds of Antarctica." 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136.

Saturday, December 12

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Greenbury Point, Anne Arundel County. Local hotspot for wintering birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-923-0881.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil (joint trip with Harford). Susquehanna River Prowl. All-morning tour from both shores of the Susquehanna River, looking for loons, diving ducks, mergansers, gulls, and eagles. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the restroom pavilion by the base of Conowingo Dam. For further information contact the leader, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, at 410-398-0125.

FIELD TRIP. Harford (joint trip with Cecil). Susquehanna River Prowl. All-morning tour from both shores of the Susquehanna River, looking for loons, diving ducks, mergansers, gulls, and eagles. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the restroom pavilion by the base of Conowingo Dam. For further information contact the leader, Les Eastman, at 410-734-6969.

Friday, January 1

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Start Your New Year List. Join Darius and Paula on this half-day trip touring Howard County to start our new year lists off in style. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Broken Land Parkway parking lot at Lake Elkhorn. For further information, contact the leaders, Darius and Paula Ecker, at 410-312-9165.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Earliest Bird. Jump start your 1999 year list at nearby hot spots. Everyone welcome (provided you can beat your New Year's Eve hangover) on this absolutely leaderless trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Georgetown Reservoir, DC, by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. For further information, contact Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764.

Thursday, January 7

MEETING. Frederick. Join us for the next in our continuing series of January programs: "Around the World with Stauffer Miller." 7:30 p.m. at the Frederick High School music room. For more information, call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088.

Friday, January 8

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "The Breeding Bird Survey, Trends in Bird Populations" by John R. Sauer. 8:00 p.m. at The Media Center, Annapolis Senior High School, 2700 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

MEETING. Cecil. Marilyn Wass of the DNR Wildlife Division in Bel Air will speak on Landscaping for Wildlife. 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary Anne's Parish House in North East. For more information, call Marcia Watson-Whitmyre at 410-398-0125.

MEETING. Harford. Program TBA. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-452-8539.

Saturday, January 9

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. Carroll. Bring a dish & share not only our company but the fun as well. 8:00 p.m. til ... at the Yingling residence. For more info & directions, contact Sue Yingling at 410-876-8211.

Sunday, January 10

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper. 5:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. Program will be a member's slide show. Register by Thursday, Jan 8 with Carolyn Webb, at 410-486-1217 or pwebb@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Gull Watch. Thousands of gulls, possibly Lesser Black-backed, Iceland, and Black-headed. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the base of the dam, located at the bottom (east end) of Shures Landing Road. Dress warmly, scopes useful. For further information, contact the coordinator, Dave Webb, at 410-939-3537.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Black Hill Regional Park. Wintering waterfowl, raptors, finches, and possible Red-headed Woodpeckers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in front of the park visitor center. Bring a snack and a scope. Call the leader to determine trip status in the event of inclement weather. For further information, contact the leader, Howard Elitzak, at 703-528-3848.

Wednesday, January 13

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Fallston. Relaxed, morning hike along Gunpowder Falls valley for winter woodland birds. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Fallston Park 'n' Ride on MD 152, just north of Harford Road (MD 147). For further information contact the leader, Russ Kovach, evenings at 410-679-0535.

Friday-Monday, January 15-18

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. North Carolina Outer Banks. Wintering ducks, geese, swans and shorebirds, loons, gannets. Search also for alcids and less common gulls. Reservations required. Limited to 16 people. Jim Green will co-lead. For reservations, trip and motel information, contact the leader, Frank Witebsky, at 301-871-7990.

Friday, January 15

MEETING. Caroline. "Birding in Arizona and Other Places Out West" by L. T. Short. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday-Monday, January 16-18

FIELD TRIP. Howard. A three day weekend to bird the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. For further information, contact the leaders, Darius and Paula Ecker, at 410-312-9165.

Saturday, January 16

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. George Washington Birthplace NM, VA. Popes Creek & Potomac River for waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Doug Forsell at 410-626-8486.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Feeder Tour. Morning tour of two homes of chapter members' for feeder watching and socializing. Space limited. For further information and reservations, call Bill McIntosh at 410-734-6517 by Wednesday, January 13. Make-up date is Saturday, January 23.

Sunday, January 17

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Conowingo Dam. Thousands of gulls, possibly some rarities, as well as waterfowl, raptors and eagles. Wear warm clothing and boots. Telescopes useful. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the White Marsh Mall at light pole 16 on NE side of Sears. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla, at 410-821-0575.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Frederick. This is a countywide survey and we need lots of extra help. If you've never seen what Frederick County has to offer in the winter, you won't regret calling to be placed on a team or assigned a sector. Coordinator, David Smith at (410) 549-7082.

Saturday, January 23

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Conowingo Dam, Harford County. Lots of gulls and a variety of other birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Conowingo Dam. Wintering waterbirds, particularly gulls, at site known for occurrence of rarities. No reservations needed, but contact leader or Mike Bowen (301-530-5764) for directions to dam site in Harford County. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the base of the dam in front of the pavilion and bathrooms. Bring scope and lunch, warm drinks. Car pooling from Montgomery County encouraged. Rick Blom will co-lead. For further information, contact the leader, Les Eastman, at 410-734-6969.

Sunday, January 24

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Capital Birding. (Joint with Northern Virginia Bird Club.) Selected sites from Georgetown to Mason Neck. Wintering waterfowl, gulls and raptors. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Georgetown Reservoir, DC, where cross dikes intersect, along MacArthur Blvd. Bring lunch and scope. No reservations necessary, but call the leader if trip status is uncertain in the event of inclement weather. For further information, contact the leader, Howard Elitzak, at 703-528-3848.

Saturday, January 30

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Ocean City to Broadkill Marsh. Wintering waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Ocean City Inlet parking lot. Bring scope, food and warm drinks. Reservations required. For further information, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525.

Things in this issue that YOU need to know about:

- 1998-99 Christmas Count Schedule !
- November to January Calendar of Activities !
- List Report Form for 1998 !
- Pin Contest Announcement !
- The Covington Bequest to MOS !
- Marshall's Texas Adventure, Part I !
- And Much, Much More ! ! !

Giving as Part of the Combined Federal Campaign?

Remember the
Maryland Ornithological Society (#6619)
and the
Environmental Fund for Maryland (#6600)

The copy deadline for the Jan/Feb issue of the Yellowthroat is November 25 for chapter activities and December 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for January to March to:

Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-671-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other submissions to the editor:

Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-606-5701

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